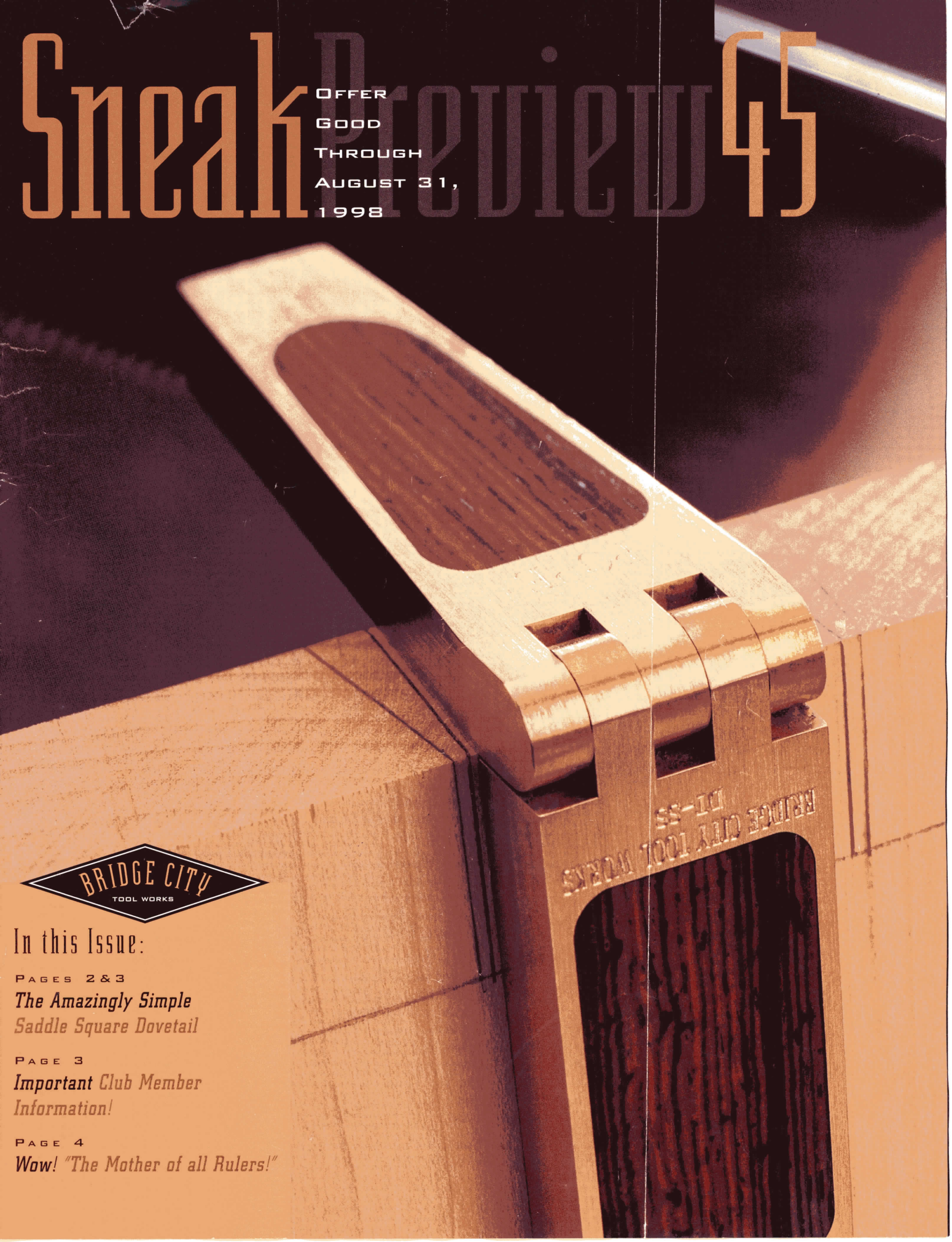
Sneak Preview 45

Offer Good Through August 31, 1998



BRIDGE CITY TOOL WORKS

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Wow! *"The Mother of all Rulers!"*

No joint has more invisible barriers to the uninitiated than the beautiful interlocking dovetail joint. Over the years I have successfully taught hundreds of people how to perfectly execute *by hand*, the dovetail joint by reducing the task into a series of very easy steps using tools and techniques for people who don't have much time to practice. This Sneak Preview gives you the foundation to unlock your "I can't" bias and open your mind toward the very rewarding satisfaction of handwork. **We are also introducing a great new tool to ease this process!**

For fun, let's dispel some common notions. I, like many of you, have seen numerous dovetail seminars by talented and charismatic woodworking gurus from lands afar. Although invariably inspiring, I remain amazed by the collective ability of these individuals to ignore the single most important aspect of their talent muscle memory.

One develops muscle memory by repeating a task so many times it can be accomplished blindfolded on a humid moonless night with the body roped and superglued to a bar stool, wrapped with duck tape and sealed within a trunk suspended inside an abandoned water tower. *Muscle memory* is why the woodworking guru can whip out perfect hand cut dovetails quicker than a sneeze using a handsaw rustier than a '63 Dodge Valiant and a chisel that spends more time opening cans of Rustoleum than cutting wood. *Muscle memory* explains why the busiest booth in the woodworking hall is the booth selling…routers!

The reason all woodworking gurus have accents is because they are not from *here*. In addition, they all learned repetitive woodworking tasks at an early age while an apprentice, which is a fancy word for child slave. Their skills with hand tools are amazing; can you eat canned peas with a dull scratch awl? These people are entertaining, but the simple truth is you will never be able to replicate their efforts in your shop because in America, we don't DO apprenticeships (Catechism the only exception). Consequently, (I'm done being silly now) we don't have the necessary muscle memory, *and never will*, because of our limited shop time. However, we can achieve the exact same results using different techniques that recognize our strengths and shortcomings.

Beautiful, light-tight dovetails can be obtained without muscle memory (or a router) by properly applying the knowledge of ***material***, ***tools*** and ***processes***. Once you have obtained the proper knowledge, you gain proficiency by applying your knowledge through a *little* practice. If you choose the router to cut dovetails, you are missing one of the true joys of the woodworking experience. Router cut dovetails always look clunky and are rarely seen in gallery quality furniture. In addition, the router is one very noisy beast. I have always wondered, "Is it worth damaging your hearing for a clunky looking joint?" If you are of this school, we invite you to open your mind and learn about our newest family member.

We are pleased to present our newest tool, the SS-DT Saddle Square. This amazingly simple tool will allow you to layout dovetails in either a 6:1 or 8:1 ratio with ease you cannot believe. Read on for the simple techniques that make this extraordinarily strong and attractive joint.

The dovetail is an important joint because if properly constructed, your joint will always be square. This is why it is proper for drawers and casework. The joint is rather simple and consists of two components traditionally referred to as "pins" and "tails". If you study the joint, this makes sense, but many don't and it can be confusing. I prefer "pins" (male) and "sockets" (female). The "pin" is analogous to a tenon as the "socket" is to a mortise.

After your stock has been properly dimensioned, set a marking gage (our MG-3 is perfect for this task) a hair or two thicker than the stock thickness. This setting allows the pins to protrude slightly once assembled, ultimately to be flush with the mating surface. Once set, you will need to scribe a line which is contiguous on all four surfaces of each board.

It is now time to layout the joint. I suggest you always layout the pins first. This is counter to most of the literature and many of the above-mentioned gurus, but there is a practical reason. Whether you cut the pins first depends upon the "waist" size of the pins. There are exceptionally beautiful dovetail joints where the waist of the pin is less than $1/32^{nd}$ of an inch. (Contrast this joint with a router produced dovetail where the waist of the pin is determined by the socket, the waist of which is always equal or greater than the shank diameter of the router bit.) If you make a joint this graceful and cut the sockets first, there is no way you will be able to trace the socket shape to the mating piece, as there does not exist a marking knife or awl thin enough to trace the outline forming the pin. However, you can always trace the socket from the pin, which is why I prefer this method.

Generally speaking and there are no hard rules, the 8:1 dovetail ratio is used for woods that are hard and easily split, the 6:1 just the opposite. I like the 8:1 because it looks completely different than the angle produced by a router bit. (The ratio system is an excellent way to communicate angles in the absence of a protractor. Draw a right angle with equal divisions along each axis. "Six up and one over" is a 6:1 ratio. Who cares what angle this is? It is very easy to reproduce and communicate in the most modest of facilities, particularly if graph paper is available.)

One hard "rule" that is full of bunk is that of the "double half-pin". Because it is poor engineering to have dovetails begin anywhere but at the edge of the project, the first and last pin have only one angled face, hence "half-pins". The rule that the waist of a half-pin should be double the waist of a regular pin

really depends upon the waist size of a full pin. French dovetails (very thin and fragile looking, but quite strong) need a half-pin that is 4-10 times the waist of a regular pin. Use your judgement. If you use the "double half-pin" rule and your pins are obese, you will create a joint that only your mother will love.

The **SS-DT Saddle Square** really shines when it comes to dovetail layout. *It replaces the need for a T-bevel and a square.* The unique ability of this tool to fold around a corner will allow you to draw or scribe the necessary straight and angled pin lines in one easy stroke. It works just grand! Slide the tool down your stock and mark away. Each and every angled line will be perfectly connected to an adjacent vertical line. This tool is fast and amazingly accurate! Your workbench is not cluttered and you never have to worry about knocking your t-bevel angle out of whack accidentally. One tool, one line, two planes!

Pin spacing and pin quantity usually is a matter of taste. Too few pins and the joint looks weak. Too many and you have a very busy joint and much work for no thoughtful reason. (One of the many neat features of our SD-6 Spider Divider is the "quick look" for equitable dovetail spacing.) Pins do not have to be equitably spaced however and can look quite nice with a unique pattern indigenous to your style and sensibilities.

The layout process of a dovetail pin is identical to that of a tenon. Our Saddle Square family is thrilled to bring this ease and function to you with the **SS-DT Saddle Square**. I am sure you will find this compact tool to be of enormous help as you add hand dovetails to your skill set.

Milled from solid brass, each of these exquisite tools will perform flawlessly in your shop. Inlaid into each face of the Saddle Squares are two precise Juara™ or rosewood wood infills to complete the styling of this remarkable tool. The hinge pin is custom turned from stainless steel, providing a smooth acting joint without slop. **The SS-DT Saddle Square will work on all stock up to two inches in thickness.** (The overall length is 6 1/4"; the width is 7/8".) I think you will agree the **SS-DT Saddle Square** is a welcome addition to our growing family of tools and a fascinating combination of innovation, craftsmanship and functionality. And until August 31, it is ***ON SALE!***

OUR SPECIAL SALE OFFER

The **SS-DT Saddle Square** is available in rosewood or Juara™ wood. Each of these tools is from the initial production run and is signed by the designer, John Economaki. ***Serial numbered, signature series tools will not be available for sale after August 31, 1998.*** Please allow 10-12 weeks for delivery. Order Today! To reserve your Signature Series Saddle Square, call **1-800-253-3332** or send in the enclosed order form today!

1101-122 SS-DT IN ROSEWOOD	$89.00 (CATALOG PRICE $109.00)
1102-122 SS-DT IN JUARA™ WOOD	$85.00 (CATALOG PRICE $104.00)

AUTOMATIC ORDER CUSTOMERS WILL BE SENT THE ROSEWOOD VERSION.

PERSONAL ENGRAVING

The limited edition and special nature of this tool are sure to be cherished by future generations and personal engraving may carry special meaning unimaginable to many today. As a tool club member, engraving the first three letters and all punctuation marks are free. Additional letters are $1.00 each. This tool can accommodate up to 6 characters, including spaces and punctuation.

A WORD ABOUT OUR DELIVERY SCHEDULES...

All our tools are special tools. If "WHEN" we deliver is more important to you than "WHAT" we deliver, you may at times be frustrated with us. Please note: all Sneak Preview tools are shipped in sequence as the orders are received. Tool Club members on our Automatic Order Option receive their tools first, the balance are shipped first in, first out. Because these tools are delivered over a period of 2-3 months, this may be of importance to you, particularly if this tool is a gift. We make no promises for delivery by a specific date. Credit card orders are not billed until the day the tool is shipped.

Important Club Member Information!

Dear Tool Club Member:

In a continuing effort to serve you, we have made some minor changes to your club benefits in addition to other club member news. Please carefully read the following and feel free to contact me if you have further questions, comments or suggestions.

Beginning with this Sneak Preview, all future Sneak Previews will be mailed exclusively to Tool Club members! This ensures that our club members will always be offered our new tools first at the very best pricing. There is not a better way to own the extraordinary tools from Bridge City Tool Works!

When your club membership is one month from expiration, we send you a post card by first class mail informing you of your membership status. If we don't hear from you in 30 days, we will automatically renew your membership for one year, you need do nothing. We do this for very specific reasons. First and foremost, each tool club member is assigned a unique tool serial number. Once you have chosen not to renew your membership, we reassign this number to a new club member. We have had several angry club members who neglected to renew in a timely fashion and discovered they now have a new serial number. If you forget to inform us that you wish to cancel your membership, all you have to do is request a no-hassle refund! Second, ninety-eight percent of tool club members renew. It makes no sense for 98% (and there are thousands of you passionate tool lovers) of our members to call or mail in their renewals. This renewal policy makes it effortless for the majority of our members.

The refund policy of membership dues has been modified to deal with those individuals who violate the spirit of good faith. You can no longer join the Tool Club and purchase tools at member prices (or the annual commemorative tool) and, at a later date, request a full dues refund. All membership refunds will be adjusted to reflect the discounts earned while as a member. In addition, if you purchase the annual commemorative tool, no refund will be authorized without voiding the commemorative tool transaction.

Look for the Bridge City booths at your local woodworking shows this coming season! We recently hired Lise-Marie Morten and Gavin Robertson, two freshly hatched University of Oregon graduates who are going to see America the "Bridge City way". They will spend ten months on the road in a motor home as our ambassadors to woodshops across America. Stop by and meet these enthusiastic members of our Bridge City team! Better yet, take advantage of the many show specials they will be offering. We'll publish their busy schedule in our Fall catalog.

The "Founder's Circle" is a sub-group of the Tool Club limited to 250 participants. These members serve as an informal design review board and receive additional discounts and privileges in addition to participating in new product development. The dues for the Founder's Circle are $150 per year. We currently have a waiting list for this group and if it interests you, you may want to give me a call.

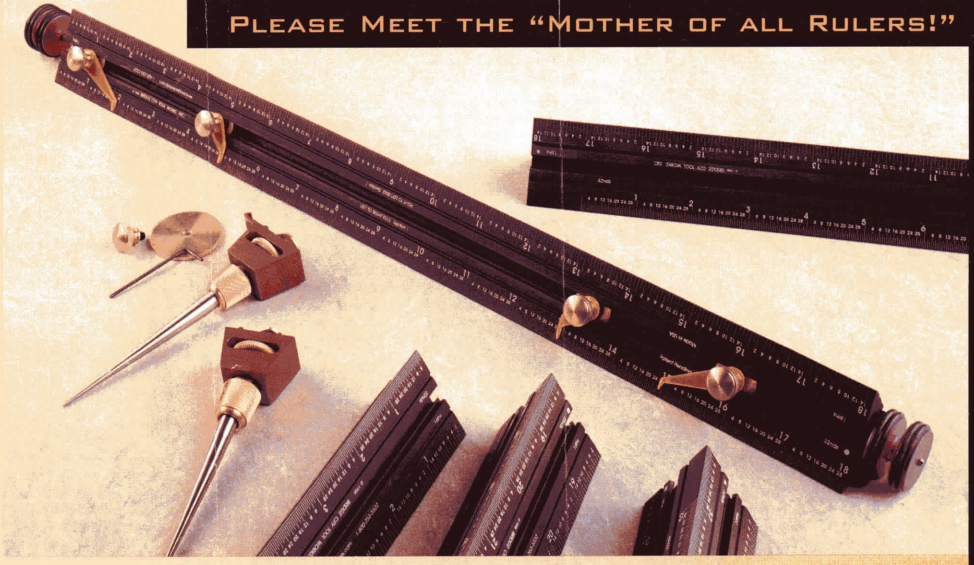
We are still working on our web site. Our president, who is more than a bit picky, has not approved efforts in this arena. We will notify you as soon as we are up and running!

Finally, we are celebrating our 15th anniversary with the recent introduction of Commemorative Tool # 6. This unbelievably beautiful hand drill will only be made once and is sure to grace your shop or home with a functional presence beyond approach. If you did not receive this announcement, call us immediately!

Thanks for taking the time to catch up with your Tool Club! As always, if you have any need to discuss tools or your benefits, please write or give me a call!

Ming Sok
Club Administrator

Please Meet the "Mother of All Rulers!"



Often a 12" bench rule is too short, and 24" bench rules are too long. Our 18" compromise is sure to win a spot on your workbench and is expandable up to 54".

Precisely extruded from hardened aluminum, the extremely durable finish is washable and soaks up light. Try this test: Set the RS-18 on your workbench next to your favorite rule propped at the same angle as the RS-18. Step back five feet and compare the graduations. You will be completely shocked at the results.

Here are the rules included on the RS-18:

1. 32nds reading left to right
2. 16ths reading left to right
3. millimeters and 32mm reading left to right
4. 32nds center finding rule
5. 16ths reading right to left
6. 32nds offset/beam compass rule

When you need added capacity, simply attach section two and three and you now have a 54" rule. All graduations are continued in sequence!

Use the florescent orange indicators (Fig. 1) and you can "note" all important measurements for repeatability or future reference. From dovetails to the complete transference of features from an existing piece, you will be amazed at how you can work without actually measuring anything!

Slide on the RS-18 trammel heads (Fig. 2) for arcs and circles. They index to the rule, making for extremely fast arcs and circles.

It takes about five seconds to attach the "hook" to the end (Fig. 3) of the RS-18 body. Measuring using the end of a rule has never been easier.

Slide the axle and wheels in place on section one of the RS-18 and it will effortlessly glide back and forth (Fig. 4) allowing you to easily create parallel lines. It works accurately enough to substitute as a marking gage in many applications where a line is needed parallel to an edge or another line. It is a very handy feature.

The RS-18 has a rule that is offset from the end (Fig. 5) of the body. You can now measure with complete accuracy without having to remember rudimentary math by subtracting 1" from your measurements.

We guarantee the RS-18 to meet or exceed all U.S. and British standards for commercial rules. Your trust in our products is the backbone of our business relationship. We believe you will be absolutely thrilled with this new and exciting product!

Rarely is there a tool that garners more attention than this ruler system. Most people have never seen a ruler without some glare; nobody has seen a ruler with so many features. When you compare the price of individual rulers and consider the combination in this one remarkable tool, you have a terrific value! Enjoy!

Fig. 1 Indicator Ruler

Fig. 2 Trammel Ruler

Fig.3 Hook Ruler

Fig. 4 Rolling Ruler

Fig. 5 Offset Ruler

Expandable Ruler

Metric Ruler

Centering Ruler

300 "The World's Finest Ruler" $106.50
(this kit includes: section 1 ruler, rolling ruler kit, storyboard indicators, hook rule)

301 "The Mother of All Rulers" $268.95
(this kit includes: section 1, section 2, section 3, trammel heads, rolling ruler kit, storyboard indicators, hook rule)

individual prices are as follows:

1101-111 Section One (0-18 inches) $71.95
with hook rule

1101-112 Section Two (18-36 inches) $65.50
with connectors

1101-113 Section Three (36-54 inches) $65.50
with connectors

1101-110 Rolling Ruler Kit $21.95
(works for section one only)

1101-114 Set of 4 Florescent Indicators $17.95

1101-115 Pair of Trammel Heads $44.95
with Scribes

1101-116 Single Trammel Head $22.95
(works with the other two heads for developing ellipse geometry.)

BRIDGE CITY TOOL WORKS

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